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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PREFETCHING PORTIONS OF A WEB PAGE BASED ON LEARNED PREFERENCES

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and a method for prefetching portions of a web page based on preferences learned from previous visits to the web page. The present invention includes a smarter prefetching technique that determines whether a user prefers certain sub-pages of the web page and, if so, then prefetches these preferred sub-pages prior to the other sub-pages of the web page. The set of preferred sub-pages is generated by analyzing the user's actions during previous visits to the web page. The present invention can be customized to expand or contract its ability to "learn" user preferences. In general, the system of the present invention includes a client computer having a prefetch module that performs prefetching of the web page and a learned preferences prefetch module that instructs the prefetch module which portions of the web page to prefetch. The prefetch method of the present invention includes prefetching a set of preferred sub-pages of a web page based on learned user preferences. These learned user preferences include a history of the sub-pages of a web page that have been requested by a user, the number of days back the history should be examined and how many sub-pages within the web page are considered distinct.